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Region 5

Hot Topics

Sterigenics Seal Order Remains in Effect

Key Message: The Illinois order remains in effect and motion hearings that could potentially lift it have yet to be scheduled.

Per the Illinois Attorney General's request, Region 5 and OAQPS will coordinate on affidavits or other written methods to verify the validity of the data collected. EPA, as well as the Village of Willowbrook and Sterigenics, continue to collect samples near the facility and plan to collect into March. This week, another former Sterigenics employee came forward with allegations of EtO gas leaks and orders to mop residue into the drainage system.

Region 5 and OAQPS Coordinating on Path Forward on Lake County EtO Concerns

Key Message: Multiple Lake County officials have requested that EPA conduct ambient monitoring, perform dispersion modeling and hold a public meeting about the Medline and Vantage EtO sources.

Illinois State Senator Melinda Bush introduced a Joint Resolution to the Illinois General Assembly, requesting that EPA "conduct ambient air monitoring, with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency do everything in their power to assist." Additionally, the Lake County Health Department issued a press release, which stated that they are "taking measures to assure air monitoring will occur and has requested that the U.S. EPA conduct a town hall meeting in Lake County." The Illinois Department of Public Health has echoed these requests.

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Rep. Casten would like to discuss the ongoing situation at the Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook, the EPA's roll in combatting climate change (especially as it relates to the region), the EPA realignment, as well as the rates of EPA inspections, DOJ referrals, and fines under the current administration. OAR senior leadership will participate in the meeting as well.

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